

August 19, 1998

The Honorable Maurice Johannessen
Chair, Senate Select Committee on CALFED Water Program
State Capitol, Room 5061
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Johannessen:

At the August 5, 1998 meeting of the Select Committee, testimony was offered regarding the accuracy of Department of Water Resources' water demand projections for California for 2020. Some of this testimony attempted to connect the CALFED Bay-Delta Program to those projections. During the hearing, I offered verbal comments on the projections and their implications for CALFED activities. I would like to take this opportunity to clarify the role of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program regarding California's water needs.

The most elaborate testimony on water demand projections came from Mr. Dennis O'Connor of the California Research Bureau. In his written testimony regarding Department of Water Resources' Bulletin 160-98 water demand projections, Mr. O'Connor correctly observes that we in CALFED are using DWR's forecasts for 2020 in conducting our analysis of the effects of various alternative program elements.

Unfortunately, Mr. O'Connor continues by speculating that if we are trying to meet an overstated demand, we will exclude otherwise viable options because those options cannot meet the overstated demand. This speculation starts from an incorrect premise by assuming that we are trying to meet a level of water supply demand and that the level of demand we are trying to meet is that identified by DWR's Bulletin 160-98. Let me be clear on this point -- CALFED is not trying to satisfy any given level of water supply demand. From the outset, one of the CALFED policy objectives has been to improve water supply reliability. CALFED has never had a policy objective of meeting statewide water supply demands. Indeed, in our March 1998 *Phase II Interim Report*, we explicitly addressed the question of water supplies and water demand. We pointed out that, although the CALFED Bay-Delta Program is striving to balance the Bay-Delta system to increase water supply reliability, the Program will not completely close the gap between water supply and projected demand.

Further, Mr. O'Connor's suggestion that use of DWR's projections means that we will exclude otherwise viable options is without foundation. As developed to date, the CALFED Bay-Delta Program includes proposals for expansion of a wide range of water management

CALFED Agencies

California

The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal

Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

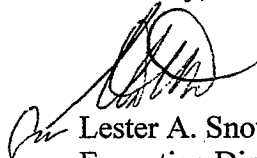
Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

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techniques, notably including water conservation, wastewater recycling, water transfers, and conjunctive use of groundwater and surface water supplies. No viable water management approach is being excluded.

I hope the Committee finds this information to be helpful in its review of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. If you have further questions on this material, please call me at (916) 657-2666, or Daniel McCarroll, CALFED Legislative Coordinator, at (916) 653-5704.

Sincerely,



Lester A. Snow
Executive Director

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Senator Jim Costa
State Capitol, Room 5100
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator Dede Alpert
State Capitol, Room 2187
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator David Kelley
State Capitol, Room 3082
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Senator Richard Rainey
State Capitol, Room 4090
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Senator Hilda Solis
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